

ALL-AREA WRESTLING TEAM

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR MIKE HESS

All-Area
First Team



Cedric Brown



Jared Browning



Macander Dieudonne



Robert Dixon



Luttere Eglau



Brandon Erfft



Chris Favoroso



Nikko Finnegan



Drew Itnyre



Jose Morales



Denzel Rego



Kolin Stapp



Hunter Taroli



Nick Vinson



Freedom Whitfield

CEDRIC BROWN
Fort Pierce Central junior,
106 pounds
Stats: 30-14, District 9-3A runner-up, fourth in Region 3-3A, Class 3A state qualifier

JARED BROWNING
Jensen Beach senior,
126 pounds
Stats: 44-5, District 14-2A champion, third in Region 4-2A, runner-up in Class 2A

MACANDER DIEUDONNE
Port St. Lucie senior,
285 pounds
Stats: 41-4, District 9-3A champion, Region 3-3A qualifier

ROBERT DIXON
Vero Beach senior,
220 pounds
Stats: 36-7, District 9-3A champion, Region 3-3A champion, fifth in Class 3A

LUTTERE EGLAUS
Fort Pierce Central senior,
170 pounds
Stats: 43-4, District 9-3A champion, Region 3-3A champion, Class 3A state qualifier

BRANDON ERFFT
Port St. Lucie senior,
152 pounds
Stats: 50-5, District 9-3A, Region 3-3A champion, fifth in Class 3A

CHRIS FAVOROSO
Jensen Beach freshman,
160 pounds
Stats: 35-20, District 14-2A champion, third in Region 4-2A, fifth in Class 2A



ALEX BOERNER/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Mike Hess of Jensen Beach High School is the 2012 Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers Wrestler of the Year.

A python on the mat

Mike Hess of Jensen Beach was one of the area's most dominant wrestlers ever

By Jon Santucci

Special to Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers

JENSEN BEACH — Mike Hess didn't want to just win a match.

The Jensen Beach senior wanted to dominate his opponent — and do so quickly. He almost always won by pinfall, usually in the first two minutes.

"He was so dominant," Jensen Beach coach Tom McMath said. "He didn't just win matches, he put a lot of guys' shoulders on the mat.

"He's a python. Once he gets a guy's shoulders on mat, he's not coming up. It's a slow death. They start kicking around until it sucks all the air out of them."

Hess, the Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers All-Area Wrestler of the Year, went 43-2 this season and was the Class 2A runner-up at 145 pounds to cap an outstanding high school career. He placed among the top four in the state five times and was a two-time state runner-up.

Hess more than earned the "python" moniker: He had 105 career wins by pinfall. His favorite move was the cement job — a technique he perfected so long ago that he rarely worked on it in practice.

"Basically, I would snap down and catch their head in my arm pit," Hess said. "I would put their arm in their back and throw them to their back. I did like to pin kids a lot more. I tried to pin every kid

Wrestler of the Year

Mike Hess

Jensen Beach senior, 145 pounds

Stats: Hess compiled a 43-2 record and was the Class 2A state runner-up. He also won both the District 14-2A and Region 4-2A championships. Hess had more than 100 career pins. Since January 2011, Hess lost just three matches — all against state champions.

Coach Tom McMath: "He is a special kid who will be remembered for a long time. To put everything in perspective, just look back at all the great things he's accomplished. Just because he didn't win state doesn't take anything away. Mike Hess will be remembered, not just in our program, but in the area, forever. I'm proud of him."

I ever wrestled."

Hess was motivated by the quest to win his first state title. After finishing third at 140 pounds in 2011, Hess took a month off to rest. He then started lifting weights and running to get ready for the summer. By the time the season started in November, Hess was ready to chase the gold medal.

"I was pretty excited for my senior year," he said. "I was working a lot harder to get to a state title. It was the most fun season I had. Although it didn't end the way I wanted it to, the season was a good way to end my senior year."

Despite injuring his thumb early in the season. Hess never slowed down. His lone loss during the regular season was to Kissimmee-Osceola's Fox Baldwin, one of the best wrestlers in the state, in a match Hess was forced to with-

draw from due to the injury.

Hess didn't lose again until the Class 2A championship match against Spring Hill-Springstead's Sean Redman.

"He only had two losses, but he's a beast and a he had a great year," McMath said. "He hasn't had more than two losses in over two years at Jensen Beach. He put in a lot more work, and it showed on the mat by just pinning everybody. The kid he lost to, to his credit, got the job done. But Mike beat him before. Of course, I'm biased, but I'll take Mikey every time."

Hess still is unsure as to where he'll wrestle in college, but his last match will serve as motivation.

"I replay it every day," he said. "Usually every night — it keeps me from going to sleep for about 30 minutes. I was definitely the better wrestler, but I didn't wres-

Coach of the Year

Tom McMath
Jensen Beach, sixth year
This season: Jensen Beach finished fourth in the Class 2A state

tournament — the highest finish in program history. The Falcons had two wrestlers reach the state finals in their respective weight classes (Mike Hess and Jared Browning), one fourth (Kolin Stapp) and a fifth (Chris Favoroso). Jensen Beach also finished second in District 14-2A and third in Region 4-2A.

Quotable: "This year's team was special. They put in a lot of hard work and they will go down as one of the best teams in Jensen Beach history. We finished fourth in state, and the four state medals are the most we've ever had. On the whole, this team battled all year. This team came together in the end and peaked at the right time."

tle to the best I can.

"I feel unfinished now. I don't want to go out with a loss. It can't be the last match I ever wrestled. Maybe I can even win an NCAA Division I title."

First Team continued

NIKKO FINNEGAN
Sebastian River senior,
195 pounds
Stats: 34-5, District 13-2A runner-up, third in Region 4-2A, Class 2A state qualifier

JOSE MORALES
SLW Centennial senior,
138 pounds
Stats: 32-8, District 9-3A champion, third in Region 3-3A, Class 3A state qualifier

KOLIN STAPP
Jensen Beach sophomore,
120 pounds
Stats: 37-8, District 14-2A champion, Region 3-3A runner-up, fourth in Class 2A

NICK VINSON
Port St. Lucie senior,
182 pounds
Stats: 40-10, District 9-3A champion, Region 3-3A runner-up, Class 3A state qualifier

DREW ITNYRE
SLW Centennial senior,
195 pounds
Stats: 34-5, District 9-3A champion, third in Region 3-3A, Class 3A runner-up

DENZEL REGO
Jensen Beach senior,
152 pounds
Stats: 42-8, District 14-2A champion, Region 2-4A champion, Class 2A state qualifier

HUNTER TAROLI
Port St. Lucie sophomore,
132 pounds
Stats: 42-10, District 9-3A champion, fourth in Region 3-3A, Class 3A state qualifier

FREEDOM WHITFIELD
Fort Pierce Central senior,
195 pounds
Stats: 18-7, District 9-3A runner-up, fourth in Region 3-3A, fourth in Class 3A

Honorable Mention

MIKEY ALAIMO
Vero Beach sophomore,
120 pounds

JOSH CONROY
Jensen Beach sophomore,
195 pounds

JONATHON KEMP
Okeechobee senior,
182 pounds

JUSTIN MANGOLA
Port St. Lucie senior,
195 pounds

SCOTT RIKER
Fort Pierce Westwood senior,
220 pounds

GABE BARLETTA
Martin County senior,
170 pounds

DONTE FRANCIS
Fort Pierce Central senior,
220 pounds

SHAQUILLE MACKAY
Fort Pierce Central senior,
160 pounds

JONATHAN MARSAILLE
Fort Pierce Central sophomore,
285 pounds

ADAM SCHINEIS
Martin County junior,
160 pounds

SERGIO CABRIALES
Fort Pierce Central sophomore,
113 pounds

RYAN HAGAN
Okeechobee junior,
145 pounds

DAVID MARCIN
Port St. Lucie sophomore,
126 pounds

RAMIL MEDOR
SLW Centennial senior,
120 pounds

IAN WISWELL
Jensen Beach sophomore,
132 pounds

All-Area Schedule

THURSDAY
Girls
soccer

FRIDAY
Boys
soccer

SATURDAY
Wrestling

SUNDAY
Girls
basketball

MONDAY
Boys
basketball

WEDNESDAY
Girls
weightlifting

The Team

The 2012 Wrestling team was compiled by Jon Santucci

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PREPZONE

See previous all-area teams on prepzone.TCPalm.com